

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
FUNERAL AND CEMETERY OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 28, 2006
TO: Funeral service licensees and interested persons
FROM: Dennis McPhee, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Possible rule changes

Here is a copy of the CR 101 (Preproposal Statement of Inquiry) that was recently filed with the Office of the Code Revisor. This serves as notification and invitation to you to participate with the agency to discuss possible rule making concerning Interns and Internships.

In May of 2005 the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers established a rule review committee to

- Review all rules in Chapters 308-47,48 and 49 relative to Executive Orders on Regulatory Improvement, which is an on-going board process.

During this review process, the committee and the Board discussed the subject of Interns and Internships. In particular, the committee focused on the perpetual nature of the internship program. This is an issue the Board intends to address.

The rule committee drafted initial language that

- Defined Funeral Director Intern, Embalmer Intern and Internship
- Established guidelines for the internship program, which included
 - Time-lines for completing internship training (places a limit on the amount of time a person can be an Intern)
 - Clarified the duties of licensee sponsors and supervisors of Interns
 - Addressed options available to Interns registered prior to implementing new rules
 - Addressed Leave of Absence from Internship requirements.

The Board is aware there is some industry opposition to imposing term limits and general guidelines on Interns. Therefore, the Board is asking for your comments on this issue. The Board would appreciate feedback on

- How Internship guidelines could affect your business needs
- What business needs are presently being met that could not be met if term restrictions were placed on Interns
- Your rationale for supporting or not supporting the perpetual nature of internships
- Alternative suggestions that would meet your business needs

History in Brief

- Funeral law was enacted in 1937, including the ability of a funeral practitioner to employ an Intern (Apprentice) to assist in the conduct of the business (RCW 18.39.120)
- College requirements for licensure were added in 1947
- Apprenticeship requirement (prerequisite for licensure) added in 1965
- Apprentice course of training added in 1972 (WAC 308-48-150 and 160)
- Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers was established in 1977
- Other than defining the one and two year course of training for Interns, no rules have been developed, specific to Interns, since the enactment of the law in 1937
- During the 2004 Legislative Session (SSB 5752) the Board's staff was repeatedly questioned about the perpetual nature of Internships. The Board's staff was unable to provide any reasonable rationale that would support no end to an internship program
- Common Definitions:
 - Intern – One serving in preparation for independent practice; advanced student undergoing supervised practical training; to train
 - Apprentice: One serving another for a certain time to learn an art or trade; One who works for another for a designated amount of time in return for instruction in a trade, art or business

Your feedback is important to the Board and I thank you for your consideration.

Please forward your comments to:

Dennis McPhee
Funeral and Cemetery Office
P.O. Box 9012
Olympia, WA 98507

If you choose to respond by e-mail, please direct your comments to:

dmcphee@dol.wa.gov